

recently I came across the following, by J. C. Dale of Glanville's Wootton, in *The Weekly Entomologist* of 4th April 1863 (vol. 2, No. 8, p. 61):—" *Papilio Vellida*, Fab., is figured by Petiver, who says it was taken at Hampstead by Mr Albin, and is also given by Haworth, who did not know the insect otherwise than in Petiver, and fancied it might be a hybrid. I suggested that as *P. Vellida* was found in the Isle of Amsterdam and also in Australia (I have specimens, too), which places were visited by Sir Joseph Banks and Dr Solander, the latter gentleman, living at Hampstead, might, as on his own showing, have been said, by a misunderstanding, to have taken it at Hampstead."—
P. B. M. ALLAN.

THE PREY OF MISUMENA CALYCINA (ARACH., THOMISIDAE).—A female of the Spider, *Misumena calycina*, Linn., found on Nettle, was of a beautiful pale green colour. She was placed on the flower sprays of *Pyracantha gibsii* on 19th May, and by the following afternoon had "paled" to a creamy white, perfectly harmonizing with the flowers. As she seemed to be quite settled down, I kept her under close observation, during the following days, with a view to noting the prey taken. (No prey was offered at any time.) The following results were obtained:—

- May 20—One *Stomoxys calcitrans*.
 „ 21—Two honey bees, *Apis mellifera*.
 „ 22—Nil.
 „ 23—One *Calliphora erythrocephala*. One *Stomoxys calcitrans*.
 „ 24—Nil. Rain.
 „ 25—On two occasions *Empis tessellata* was taken and killed, but both were dropped, uneaten. Later, *Geosargus cuprarius* was taken and retained.
 „ 26 and 27—Nil. Rain.
 „ 28—A male appeared, and remained with her.
 „ 29, 30 and 31—No prey taken. Rainy.
 June 1—One *Empis tessellata* taken and eaten, followed by one *Rhingia macrocephala*.
 „ 2—Nil.
 „ 3—One *Empis tessellata*.
 „ 4—One *Rhingia macrocephala*. One *Tipula* sp., too mauled to be identified.
 „ 5—She disappeared, possibly to attend to family cares, although she was not actually seen to mate.

The male was not seen to take any food, and spent most of his time in the background, but at times he was seen to run "crab-fashion" around the female, at the same time violently agitating his palps and first pair of legs.

On several occasions foraging Ants (*Formica rufa*) were seen to walk over the spider, whilst she was feeding, but she never moved, or took the slightest notice. The ants were not seen to interfere with her prey.

During the whole period, the spider only took prey during sunshine. When there was no sunshine she tucked herself away behind the flowers, but immediately the sun came out she would reappear, and assume the typical Thomisid stance, with the first two pair of legs raised in readi-

ness to strike at any fly or bee which came near.—A. H. TURNER, Hatch Beauchamp, Taunton.

WHAT IS THE RACE OF *PAPILIO MACHAON* FOUND IN THE NORTH WEST OF FRANCE?—Captain Dannreuther, referring to the *Papilio machaon*, which is on rare occasions met with in the counties near the Southern coast of England, wishes to know to what particular race it belongs. These specimens come over from Western France. He is provisionally calling it race *gorganus*, Fruh., the colonists of the mountain ranges of Central Europe and spreading to Eastern Europe and possibly into similar areas in Asia Minor (?). It will usually be single brooded until it reaches a more genial climate like the Italian lake areas of Switzerland, where the 2nd generation occurs and is known as “trans ad” *sphryoides*, Vrty., or *aestivalis*, Shelj. In the higher Alpine regions above it is known as race *alpina*, Vrty. In the lower areas of S. Eastern Europe *machaon* exists in two generations definitely under the name *bigenerata*, Vrty., with 2nd generation *aestivalis*, Shelj. What we want to know is particulars of the distribution of *machaon* in N.W. France. There are two generations in the lower Rhone Valley Swiss, in the Rhine Valley, Badon area, in the Belgian Vorges area and also in Central France. All these doubtless are r. *gorganus*. They occur April-May and late July-August. The (1) *bigenerata*, Vrty., with its (2) *aestivalis*, Shelj., are said to distribute from the E. Europe area in an E. and S.E. direction parallel to the more elevated Central European *gorganus* direction. Both have the *aestivalis*, Shelj., as 2nd generation (*bigenerata* is an unfortunate name as it confounds the facts). Observers resident in the Plateau of Langres, the Paris area, Fontainebleau, Normandy and the West Central country N. of Bordeaux only can give us correct information.—Hy. J. T.

SPANIA NIGRA, MG. [DIPT., RHAGIONIDAE] IN HANTS.—When Verrall published his *British Flies*, Vol. 5, in 1909, he was only able to record this species from one locality in England, namely, Tarrington, Herefordshire, “where Col. Yerbury found the males common on *Cornus sanguinea*.” Since then it has been found in Cambs. and Notts. I find that I have two males taken on 5th June 1938, near Burley in the New Forest, Hants. Unfortunately no note of the habitat was made at the time but they were captured when collecting in a fairly damp area on the occasion of the excursion of the Society for British Entomology during its 4th annual Congress.—L. PARMENTER, F.R.E.S., 94 Fairlands Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey, 26.8.46.

THE HOVERING OF A STRATIOMYID [DIPT.].—Verrall, in *British Flies*, 1909, p. 55, stated, when dealing with the *Stratiomyidae*, that “very few, if any, species show any marked powers of flight, and none are known to hover.” He defined “hovering” in a footnote on the same page: “I consider the word ‘hover’ to indicate the apparently motionless poise in the air of an individual specimen when the wings are rapidly vibrating.” It was therefore interesting to find that two small flies which hovered poised in one spot at about 10 feet over a track between oak trees at Limpsfield Common, Surrey, on 21st July 1946, were none other than male *Pachygaster leachii*, Curtis. Incidentally I believe it has not been taken previously in Surrey.—L. PARMENTER, F.R.E.S., 94 Fairlands Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey, 20.8.46.